

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 230019

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ORIGIN ARA-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 230019

FOLLOWING REPEAT SAN JOSE 4075 ACTION SECSTATE INFO GUATEMALA
MANAGUA PANAMA SAN SALVADOR TEGUCIGALPA 25 SEP 1975

QUOTE

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 4075

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: EXCELSIOR REPORTS ON TODMAN LETTER TO
ODUBER RE VESCO

1. EXCELSIOR ON SEPTEMBER 25 CARRIED A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE
HEADLINED "TODMAN PRESSURES TO EXTRADITE VESCO." ARTICLE
SAYS THAT THE US EMBASSY IS TRYING TO INFLUENCE PRES. ODUBER
TO EXPEL ROBERT VESCO.

2. THE ARTICLE REPORTS ON A LETTER SENT BY
AMBASSADOR TODMAN TO PRESIDENT ODUBER "A FEW DAYS AGO"
EXPLAINING TO ODUBER NEW EFFORTS IN THE US CONGRESS
CONCERNING EXTRADITION LEGISLATION "OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO
OBTAIN THE EXPULSION OF ROBERT VESCO FROM COSTA RICA."
EXCELSIOR SAYS LETTER ALSO CONTAINS "SUGGESTIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESIDENT ODUBER" THAT "IMPLICITLY
CONVEY MODIFICATIONS OF OUR EXTRADITION LEGISLATION."

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PAGE 02 STATE 230019

3. ARTICLE SAYS THAT ODUBER HANDED THE LETTER OVER TO

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, WHERE "SOURCES" REPORT THAT ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JORGE UMANA IS STUDYING IT CAREFULLY SINCE IT IS "A VERY DELICATE MATTER WITH JURIDICAL CONNOTATIONS, EVEN THAT OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF COSTA RICA."

4. THE ARTICLE SAYS THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL ALFREDO TOSSI CONFIRMS THE STORY AND QUOTES HIM THAT "SUCH SUGGESTIONS... PRACTICALLY ORDER OUR COUNTRY TO CHANGE ITS LAWS IN THIS AREA...THEY CAN BE CONSIDERED AS INTROMISSION OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY IN COSTA RICA."

5. LA HORA OF SEPTEMBER 25 REPORTED THE SAME STORY MORE BRIEFLY BUT WITH THE SAME INFORMATION AND THE SAME IMPLICATIONS UNDER HEADING "TODMAN INSISTS ON VESCO CASE."

6. IF QUERIED BY MEDIA ABOUT STORY, EMBASSY WILL RESPOND; "WE HAVE NO COMMENT AT THIS TIME ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS REPORT. THE EMBASSY OF COURSE HAS HAD OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM TIME TO TIME WITH THE GOCR ON EXTRADITION MATTERS, AND DENIES ANY CHARGE OF INTROMISSION OR PRESSURE." SO FAR, HOWEVER, NO ONE HAS ASKED. LANE
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